



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1651 **Customer No.: 035811**
Examiner : David Harold Humphrey
Serial No. : 10/679,580
Filed : October 6, 2003
Inventors : Usha Kasid
: Deepak Kumar
: Imran Ahmad
Title : GENE SCC-112 AND DIAGNOSTIC
: AND THERAPEUTIC USES THEREOF **Docket No.: 224378**
Confirmation No.: 8237

Dated: June 20, 2006

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 20, 2006. Per the petition and fee submitted herewith, the Applicants hereby claim a one-month extension of time for responding, to June 20, 2006.

The Applicants hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-11) with traverse.

Remarks

The claims of Group I (claims 1-11) have been elected for further prosecution, with traverse. Based on this election, and as discussed below, the Applicants believe that the claims of at least Groups I, II, III and VII-XVI should be examined together.

Restriction of claims is proper only if the inventions are independent or distinct, and the search of the claims would impose a serious burden on the Examiner. If the search can be made without serious burden, then the claims must be examined together even though they may define independent or distinct inventions. MPEP 803.

The Restriction Requirement alleges that the nucleic acids (and host cells and vectors made with them), polypeptides and antibodies recited in Groups I, II and III are unrelated because they "have substantially different physical, chemical and functional properties." However, Group II (claims 12-18) define polypeptides with reference to the polypeptide of SEQ